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Trespassers on Easter Island: Explorers, Whalers, Slavers, Adventurers, Missionaries, Scientists and Tourists, from 1722 to the Present Time

Hanns Ebensten, 2001
(The Ketch and Yawl Press, Key West)
Hard cover, 157 pages, \$25.00. ISBN: 0-9641735-1-4

Review by Georgia Lee

Hanns Ebensten first went to Easter Island some 70 years ago and has been back to the island annually since 1967. He conducted Lindblad's first tour expedition when tourists were put up in tents, the flight from Chile took ten hours (Lindblad had to borrow navigators from Lufthansa for the charter flights), water was scarce, and Chilean officials were unhelpful. At that time, islanders were still confined to Hangaroa village. Foreigners could explore the island, but locals could not pass through

the gate.

Over the years, Ebensten has observed the many changes that have come to Rapa Nui, and comments about these are sprinkled through his chapters. His text is, as he himself mentions, unscientific. His love for the island is palpable.

The chapters are chronological, beginning with the first explorers, then whalers and traders, the slave raids, the missionaries. By Chapter 6 he is into the removal of antiquities from the island by various expeditions. Then we hear about the annexation by Chile, and Chapter 8 concerns Katherine Routledge's amazing time on the island. Chapters 9 and 10 pertain to colonial exploitation, and then, in Chapter 11, Ebensten tackles Métraux as "The Blinkered Scientist."

Gathering steam, in the next chapter we read about "The Hoaxing of Mr Heyerdahl", who is roundly dissed by the author. Chapter 13, "The New Destination" describes the start of tourism, the Canadian Medical Expedition, the US Air Force, Sebastian Englert, and Bill Mulloy on Easter Island.

In Chapters 14 and 15, "The Mixed Blessing of Tourism" and "Close Encounters" we get various facets of tourism, bringing us up to date on the inherent problems of tourism, such as its corrupting effect on locals who assume visitors to be rich, gullible, and oversexed. Some of Ebensten's personal stories of encounters between tourists and islanders are described, including problems that arise when visitors arrive looking for sexual encounters (of several persuasions) instead of statues!

The last chapter, "South Sea Sacrilege" takes on 'scientific' disasters such as the moulds made for the German exhibition (these, being improperly executed, caused severe damage to the statues); the Japanese gift of a crane (aptly called "The Yellow Peril" by Ebensten) to raise statues; and the ill-advised "restoration" of Ahu Tongariki. Despite worldwide condemnation of this project, it went forward. And then there was the idiotic Hollywood movie made on the island: a real catalog of disasters. The book ends with a short Epilog and a one-page Glossary. *Trespassers on Easter Island* is a light read, quirky but very engaging.

The Continuum Encyclopedia of Native Art: Worldview, Symbolism & Culture in Africa, Oceania and Native North America

Hope B. Werness
(New York, London: Continuum, 2000)

Review by Norman Hurst
Cambridge, Massachusetts

What may have led author Hope Werness to encyclopedize during her sabbatical year is unclear. The dust jacket introduces her as a potter, operator of a private humane society, professor of art history at California State University, Stanislaus, and the author of a book on mirrors. Neither she nor her publisher attempt to persuade the reader of her qualifications to undertake such an ambitious project as the present work would seem to be.

Problems with text occur from the very beginning. In her